

In response to that Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3, 4, 12 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 10, 11 and 14-19 to read as follows (a version of those claims, marked to show the changes, is appended):

1. (Amended) An image processing apparatus for processing a moving picture, comprising:

frame extraction means for extracting frames constituting an entered moving picture;

discrimination means for discriminating a scene change by comparing frames extracted by said frame extraction means;

storage means for storing scene-change information relating to the scene change discriminated by said discrimination means;

designating means for designating an image that corresponds to a scene that is the object of a search;

comparison means for comparing a scene-change frame, which is obtained by referring to the scene-change information that has been stored in said storage means, and the image that has been designated by said designation means;

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scene extraction means for extracting a scene that corresponds to the image based upon result of the comparison performed by said comparison means; and
output means for editing scenes that have been extracted by said scene extraction means and combining these extracted scenes into a single moving picture.

2. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said comparison means includes computation means for computing degree of similarity between the scene-change frame and the image that has been designated by said designation means, and
wherein said scene extraction means extracts the scene corresponding to said image based upon results of calculation performed by said calculation means.

10. (Amended) An image processing method for processing a moving picture, comprising:
a frame extraction step, of extracting frames constituting an entered moving picture;
a discrimination step, of discriminating a scene change by comparing frames extracted in said frame extraction step;
a storage step, of storing scene-change information relating to the scene change discriminated in said discrimination step;

a designating step, of designating an image that corresponds to a scene that is the object of a search;

a comparison step, of comparing a scene-change frame, which is obtained by referring to the scene change information that has been stored in said storage step, and the image that has been designated in said designation step;

a scene extraction step, of extracting a scene that corresponds to the image based upon result of the comparison performed in said comparison step; and

an output step, of editing scenes that have been extracted in said scene extraction step and combining these extracted scenes into a single moving picture.

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11. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said comparison step includes a computation step, of computing degree of similarity between the scene-change frame and the image that has been designated in said designation step , and
wherein said scene extraction step includes extracting the scene corresponding to the image based upon results of calculation performed in said calculation step.

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14. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said designating step includes designating a pattern image that corresponds to any of a leading, intermediate or final frame of a scene that is the object of a search.

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15. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said designating step includes designating a number of scenes to be extracted.

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said designating step includes designating the time of a scene to be extracted.

17. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said designating step includes designating a number of scenes to be extracted, with regard to frames prior to and with regard to frames on and after a frame corresponding to the pattern image.

18. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said designating step includes designating time of a scene to be extracted, with regard to frames prior to and with regard to frames on and after a frame corresponding to the pattern image.

19. (Amended) A computer-readable memory storing program code of image processing for processing a moving picture, the memory including:

program code of a frame extraction step, of extracting frames constituting an entered moving picture;

program code of a discrimination step, of discriminating a scene change by comparing frames extracted in said frame extraction step;

program code of a storage step, of storing scene change information relating to the scene change discriminated in said discrimination step;

program code of a designating step, of designating an image that corresponds to a scene that is the object of a search;

program code of a comparison step, of comparing a scene-change frame, which is obtained by referring to the scene-change information that has been stored in said storage step, and the image that has been designated in said designation step;

program code of a scene extraction step, of extracting a scene that corresponds to the image based upon result of the comparison performed in said comparison step; and

program code of an output step, of editing scenes that have been extracted in said scene extraction step and combining these extracted scenes into a single moving picture.

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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-11 and 14-19 remain in this application, of which Claims 1, 10 and 19 are independent. Claims 3, 4, 12 and 13 have been canceled, and their recitations incorporated into their respective base claims, and a similar change has been made to Claim 19; these changes are made without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. In addition, Claims 2, 11 and 14-18 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention.